

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you have been keeping well and enjoying the break.

If you have been following the news, you will know that the opening of secondary schools for face to face learning has been delayed, as has the opening of primary schools in some areas. This includes a large number of London boroughs.

**Hackney is not included in the list and St John the Baptist will be re-opening for children on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.** We are looking forward to seeing your child/ren and to resuming their learning.

We are committed to being as safe as we possibly can be and to your child's attendance at school being as high as possible.

Many children have lost too much learning already this academic year due to COVID. Please ensure that your child's attendance at school remains high unless their absence is unavoidable.

I will be re-sharing our Covid safe arrangements with you before the start of term.

In advance of this, please continue to:

- follow Tier 4 restrictions to protect yourselves and the other members of your child's bubble. These can be found at: [Tier 4: Stay at Home - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home) (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home>)
- book a COVID test immediately if anyone in your household experiences symptoms. You can do this by calling 119 or: [Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) (<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>)
- notify me immediately if anyone in your household tests positive for coronavirus. You can do this by emailing me: [office@st-john.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-john.hackney.sch.uk)
- ensure that your child has warm clothes to wear in school. Government guidance is that we should keep classroom windows open and it is cold! Please provide your child with a warm coat and hat / gloves / scarf if possible for outdoors. Please feel free to provide an additional jumper that can be worn underneath their current uniform for indoors.

I have made the following decisions, which I will be reviewing once the rate of coronavirus in Hackney is lower. These are being made to continue to minimise the risk of contact between children and family members from different bubbles:

- We will continue our staggered starts and pick up arrangements as per last term.
- All staff and parents collecting children are asked to wear face coverings and only 1 over-16 adult per child/family please.

- Children will continue to have staggered lunchtimes and playtimes without contact from other children from different year groups.
- PE lessons will continue to run and all children will take part in our daily mile fitness challenge outdoors.
- Children will continue to have their own resources and drink bottle which is regularly sanitised to minimise sharing.
- In classrooms (years 1-6) children have allocated seats and movement is minimised to reduce contact.
- We have asked staff to have a Covid test before returning next week as we now know 1 in 3 positive cases are from people displaying no symptoms
- All children and staff are encouraged to observe social distancing measures, especially indoors.

Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time and socially distance at the school gate when dropping off and collecting your child/ren and do not remain outside the school for longer than is necessary.

It is planned that Breakfast and After School Club will resume but we are awaiting additional guidance. We will have to enforce strict year group capacity however. We will be in contact with all families on Monday who access these services to ensure that places are within current guidelines for tier-4 restrictions.

We are preparing for the possibility that we may be asked to deliver remote education for the majority of children in the near-future. Please complete the survey we will be sending to you separately via survey monkey to support these preparations.

Please accept my apologies if any of the decisions included in this letter adversely affects you. Safety and minimising disruption to learning have to be my priority.

Should any Government guidance change about school re-opening, I will notify you immediately.

We are really looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday!



Toni Mason  
Headteacher